In re TURNER ET AL., Application No. 09/520,684
Amendment C

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of clams will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-23 (canceled)

24 (currently amended): A method for distributed resequencing of packets in a packet switching system, the method comprising:

identifying one or more floor indications received by a switching element, each of said one or more floor indications associated with a respective timestamp value;

identifying one or more data packets received by the switching element, each of said one or more data packets associated with a respective timestamp value;

finding an earliest timestamp value associated with said one or more floor indications and said one or more data packets;

in response to ~~identifying~~ making a determination that not one of said data packets has associated therewith the earliest timestamp value, always discontinuing forwarding of said one or more data packets ~~during~~ for the remaining duration of a current cell time; and

in response to identifying that a particular data packet of said data packets has associated therewith the earliest timestamp value, forwarding the particular data packet during the current cell time; wherein said forwarding the particular data packet during the current cell time includes removing the particular data packet from an arrival buffer and if said removing causes the arrival buffer to become empty, in response adding a new floor indication to the arrival buffer.

25. (previously presented): The method of claim 24, wherein time remains in the current cell time to forward at least one of said one or more data packets when said discontinuing forwarding of said one or more data packets during the current cell time is performed.

26-28 (canceled)

29 (currently amended): An apparatus for distributed resequencing of packets in a packet switching system, the method comprising:

means for identifying one or more floor indications received by a switching element, each of said one or more floor indications associated with a respective timestamp value;

means for identifying one or more data packets received by the switching element, each of said one or more data packets associated with a respective timestamp value;

means for finding an earliest timestamp value associated with said one or more floor indications and said one or more data packets;

means for always discontinuing forwarding of said one or more data packets ~~during~~ for the remaining duration a current cell time in response to ~~identifying~~ making a determination that not one of said data packets has associated therewith the earliest timestamp value; and

means for forwarding the particular data packet during the current cell time in response to identifying that a particular data packet of said data packets has associated therewith the earliest timestamp value; wherein said means for forwarding the particular data packet during the current cell time includes means for removing the particular data packet from an arrival buffer and if said removing causes the arrival buffer to become empty, in response adding a new floor indication to the arrival buffer.

30 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 29, wherein time remains in the current cell time to forward at least one of said one or more data packets when said discontinuing forwarding of said one or more data packets during the current cell time is performed.

31-33 (canceled)

34 (currently amended): A method for distributed resequencing of packets in a packet switching system, the method comprising:

identifying one or more floor indications received by a switching element, each of said one or more floor indications associated with a respective timestamp value;

identifying one or more data packets received by the switching element, each of said one or more data packets associated with a respective timestamp value;

finding an earliest timestamp value associated with said one or more floor indications and said one or more data packets;

in response to ~~identifying~~ making a determination that not one of said data packets has associated therewith the earliest timestamp value, always discontinuing forwarding of said one or more data packets ~~during~~ for the remaining duration of a current cell time; and

in response to identifying that a particular data packet of said data packets has associated therewith the earliest timestamp value, forwarding the particular data packet during the current cell time.

35. (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein time remains in the current cell time to forward at least one of said one or more data packets when said discontinuing forwarding of said one or more data packets during the current cell time is performed.

36 (currently amended): An apparatus for distributed resequencing of packets in a packet switching system, the method comprising:

means for identifying one or more floor indications received by a switching element, each of said one or more floor indications associated with a respective timestamp value;

means for identifying one or more data packets received by the switching element, each of said one or more data packets associated with a respective timestamp value;

means for finding an earliest timestamp value associated with said one or more floor indications and said one or more data packets;

means for always discontinuing forwarding of said one or more data packets ~~during~~ for the remaining duration of a current cell time in response to ~~identifying~~ making a determination that not one of said data packets has associated therewith the earliest timestamp value; and

means for forwarding the particular data packet during the current cell time in response to identifying that a particular data packet of said data packets has associated therewith the earliest timestamp value.

37 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 36, wherein time remains in the current cell time to forward at least one of said one or more data packets when said discontinuing forwarding of said one or more data packets during the current cell time is performed.